

REMARKS

The final action mailed May 8, 2008, has been carefully studied. Upon entry of the amendments presented above, the claims in the application will only be claims 11 and 21, these being amended in a way which is believed to place these claims in condition for allowance consistent with what is stated in the final action. Accordingly, favorable consideration, entry of the amendments, and early formal allowance are respectfully urged.

The final action contains two rejections of claims 11, 21 and 22, both under the first paragraph of Section 112 which, to applicants' understanding, boil down to a criticism of the wording added in the last reply to claims 11 and 21 of "to thereby block binding between IL-6 in its receptor". While applicants do not necessarily agree, and therefore respectfully traverse the rejection, both claims are amended above in a way which is believed to obviate the rejections.

As understood, the examiner has acknowledged in the final action that the embodiment with "a dissociation constant (K_D) of 1.0×10^{-8} M or less" is enabled and applicant is in possession thereof (section 4, the paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3; section 4, the second paragraph at page 6 of the Office Action).

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Amd. dated August 6, 2008
Reply to Office Action dated: May 8, 2008

Withdrawal of both rejections under Section 112 is therefore believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.


As for the objected phrase "...wherein one or several amino acids are deleted, substituted or added in the amino acid sequences of said VH chain and/or said VL chain", claim 22 reciting said phrase is canceled.

Applicants believe that all issue raised in the Final Action are resolved by the Reply submitted above. Favorable consideration, entry of the amendments presented above, and early formal allowance are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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